



U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of Public Affairs
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
<http://www.dot.gov/briefingroom>

BTS Data

BTS 16-17

Thursday, March 23, 2017

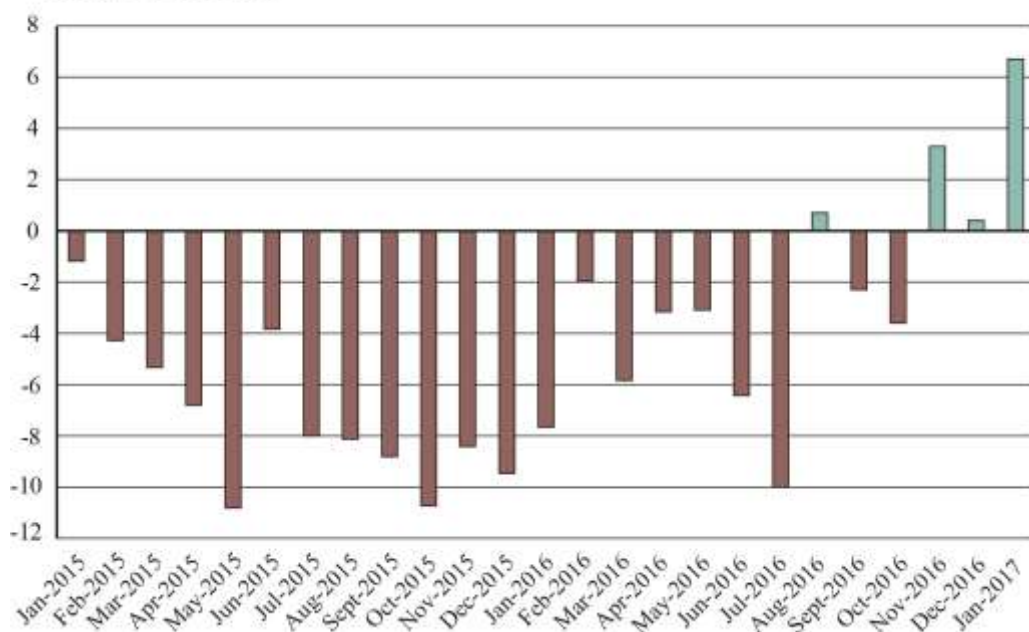
Contact: Dave Smallen

Tel: 202-366-5568

david.smallen@dot.gov

January 2017 North American Freight Numbers

**Figure 1. U.S.-NAFTA Freight Value Percent Change from Previous Year
(Last 24 months)**



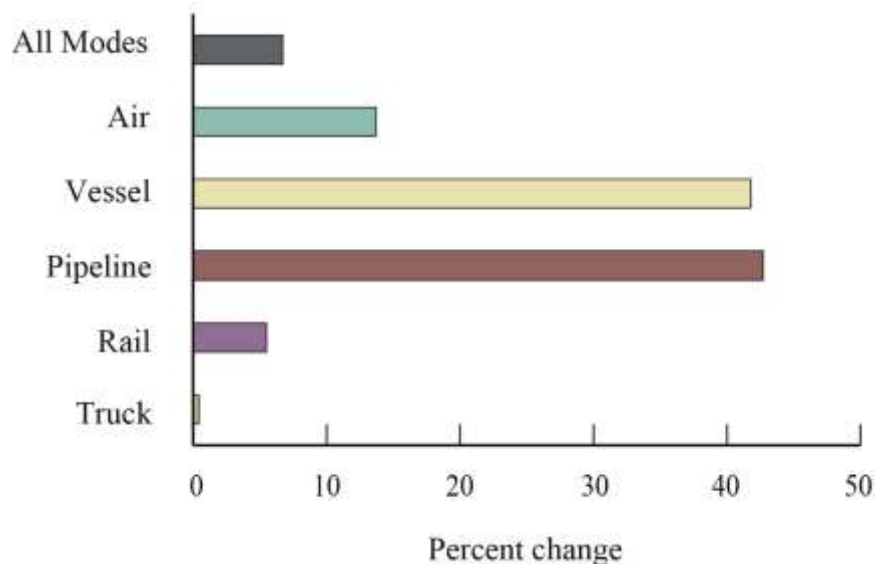
SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

U.S.-NAFTA freight totaled \$88.0 billion in current dollars as all five major transportation modes carried more freight by value with North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners Canada and Mexico in January 2017 compared to January 2016, according to the TransBorder Freight Data released today by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) (Figure 2, Table 1).

The 6.7 percent rise from January 2016 was the largest year-over-year increase since the September 2014 increase over September 2013. It was also the third straight month in which the year-over-year value of U.S.-NAFTA freight increased from the same month of the previous year (Figure 1).

Freight by Mode

Figure 2. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows by Mode: January 2016-2017



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

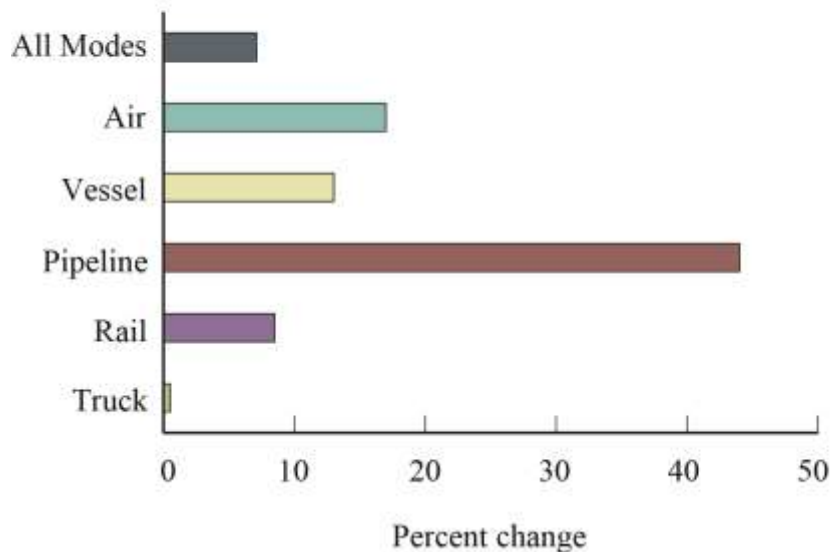
The value of commodities moving by pipeline increased 42.7 percent, vessel by 41.8 percent, air by 13.7 percent, rail by 5.5 percent, and truck by 0.4 percent (Figure 2, Table 2). The large percentage increase in the value of goods moving by pipeline and vessel was largely due to a 66 percent increase in the year-over-year price of crude oil between January 2016 and January 2017.

Trucks carried 62.5 percent of U.S.-NAFTA freight and continued to be the most heavily utilized mode for moving goods to and from both U.S.-NAFTA partners. Trucks accounted for \$28.2 billion of the \$47.8 billion of imports (59.1 percent) and \$26.8 billion of the \$40.2 billion of exports (66.6 percent) (Table 2).

Rail remained the second largest mode by value, moving 15.0 percent of all U.S.-NAFTA freight, followed by vessel, 7.0 percent; pipeline, 6.4 percent; and air, 3.9 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 84.0 percent of the total value of U.S.-NAFTA freight flows (Table 2).

U.S.-Canada Freight

Figure 3. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-Canada Freight Flows by Mode: January 2016-2017



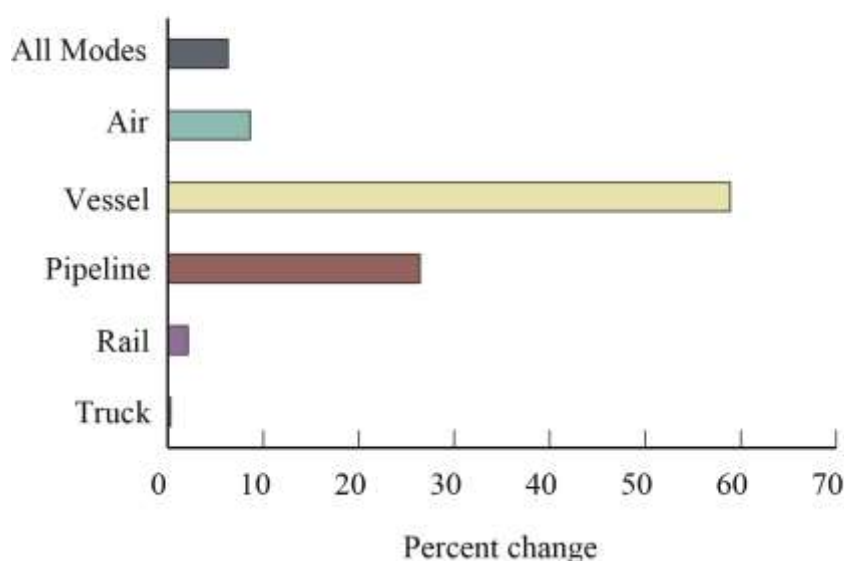
SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

From January 2016 to January 2017, the value of U.S.-Canada freight flows increased by 7.1 percent to \$45.0 billion as the value of freight on five major modes increased from a year earlier. The value of freight carried on pipeline increased by 44.0 percent, air by 17.0 percent, vessel by 13.0 percent, rail by 8.5 percent, and truck by 0.5 percent. The increase in the value of commodities moved in pipeline reflects the increased value of mineral fuels year over year (Figure 3, Table 3).

Trucks carried 56.8 percent of the value of the freight to and from Canada. Rail carried 16.1 percent followed by pipeline, 11.8 percent; air, 4.8 percent; and vessel, 4.1 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 84.7 percent of the value of total U.S.-Canada freight flows (Table 3).

U.S.-Mexico Freight

Figure 4. Percent Change in Value of U.S.-Mexico Freight Flows by Mode: January 2016-2017



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

From January 2016 to January 2017, the value of U.S.-Mexico freight flows increased by 6.3 percent to \$43.0 billion as the value of freight on five major modes increased from a year earlier. The value of commodities moved by vessel increased by 58.9 percent, pipeline by 26.4 percent, air by 8.6 percent, rail by 2.1 percent, and truck by 0.3 percent. The increase in the value of commodities moved by vessel reflects the increased value of mineral fuels year over year (Figure 4, Table 4).

Trucks carried 68.6 percent of the value of the freight to and from Mexico. Rail carried 13.9 percent of the value of freight to and from Mexico followed by vessel, 10.1 percent; air, 3.0 percent; and pipeline, 0.8 percent. The surface transportation modes of truck, rail and pipeline carried 83.2 percent of the value of total U.S.-Mexico freight flows (Table 4).

Commodities

In January 2017, the top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Canada by all modes was vehicles and parts, of which \$4.6 billion, or 57.3 percent, moved by truck and \$3.2 billion, or 40.1 percent, moved by rail (Figure 5). The top commodity category transported between the U.S. and Mexico by all modes in January 2017 was electrical machinery, of which \$7.4 billion, or 91.4 percent, moved by truck (Figure 6).

Reporting Notes

BTS press releases and the BTS website define surface transportation modes as truck, rail and pipeline. See [North American TransBorder Freight Data](#) on the BTS website for additional data for surface modes since 1995 and all modes since 2004. The category of all modes of transportation cited in the following tables includes freight movements by truck, rail, vessel, pipeline, air, [other](#) and unknown modes of transport.

Data in this press release are not seasonally adjusted and are not adjusted for inflation. Additional summary data adjusted for inflation and exchange rates can be found on the BTS website under [TransBorder Indexed Freight Flow Data](#). The Bureau of Labor Statistics indexes used in the adjustments for inflation and exchange rates might be revised in each of the three months after original publication. For previous statistical releases and summary tables, see [TransBorder Releases](#). See [TransBorder Freight Data](#) for data from previous months, and for additional state, port, and commodity data. BTS has scheduled the release of February TransBorder numbers for April 27.

Table 1. Value of Monthly U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows
(millions of current dollars)

Month	2015	2016	2017	Percent Change 2015-2016	Percent Change 2016-2017
January	89,258	82,430	87,960	-7.7	6.7
February	85,723	84,038		-2.0	
March	96,070	90,462		-5.8	
April	93,327	90,380		-3.2	
May	92,707	89,840		-3.1	
June	99,030	92,671		-6.4	
July	92,995	83,725		-10.0	
August	92,442	93,126		0.7	
September	93,246	91,126		-2.3	
October	96,624	93,165		-3.6	
November	88,154	91,089		3.3	
December	86,748	87,086		0.4	
Year-to-date	89,258	82,430	87,960	-7.7	6.7
Annual	1,106,325	1,069,138		-3.4	

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

NOTE: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

Table 2. Value of Monthly U.S.-NAFTA Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation
(millions of current dollars)

Mode		January 2016	January 2017	Percent Change January 2016-2017
All Modes	Imports	44,565	47,764	7.2
	Exports	37,865	40,196	6.2
	Total	82,430	87,960	6.7
All Surface Modes	Imports	39,847	41,494	4.1
	Exports	31,393	32,355	3.1
	Total	71,240	73,849	3.7
Truck	Imports	28,387	28,222	-0.6
	Exports	26,390	26,781	1.5
	Total	54,777	55,003	0.4
Rail	Imports	8,343	8,899	6.7
	Exports	4,163	4,300	3.3
	Total	12,506	13,199	5.5
Pipeline	Imports	3,116	4,373	40.3
	Exports	840	1,274	51.7
	Total	3,957	5,647	42.7
Vessel	Imports	2,239	3,291	47.0
	Exports	2,119	2,891	36.4
	Total	4,359	6,182	41.8
Air	Imports	1,278	1,474	15.3
	Exports	1,736	1,955	12.6
	Total	3,014	3,429	13.7

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

NOTES: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding. The value of trade for all modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail, pipeline, vessel and air modes, it also includes shipments made by mail, foreign trade zones, and other transportation. For additional detail, please refer to the “Data Fields” section of [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

Table 3. Value of Monthly U.S.-Canada Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation
(millions of current dollars)

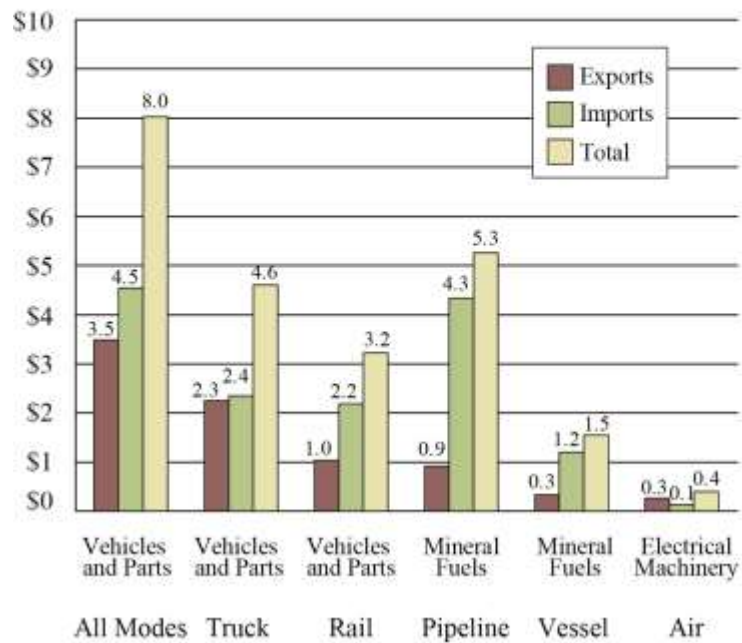
Mode		January 2016	January 2017	Percent Change January 2016-2017
All Modes	Imports	22,164	24,282	9.6
	Exports	19,799	20,663	4.4
	Total	41,963	44,945	7.1
All Surface Modes	Imports	19,587	21,205	8.3
	Exports	16,150	16,842	4.3
	Total	35,737	38,048	6.5
Truck	Imports	11,709	11,782	0.6
	Exports	13,677	13,729	0.4
	Total	25,387	25,511	0.5
Rail	Imports	4,782	5,061	5.8
	Exports	1,887	2,177	15.4
	Total	6,669	7,238	8.5
Pipeline	Imports	3,096	4,362	40.9
	Exports	585	937	60.0
	Total	3,681	5,299	44.0
Vessel	Imports	1,031	1,421	37.9
	Exports	587	406	-30.7
	Total	1,617	1,828	13.0
Air	Imports	797	933	17.1
	Exports	1,039	1,216	17.0
	Total	1,836	2,149	17.0

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

NOTES: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

The value of trade for all modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail, pipeline, vessel and air modes, it also includes shipments made by mail, foreign trade zones, and other transportation. For additional detail, please refer to the "Data Fields" section of [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

**Figure 5. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Canada for Each Mode of Transportation, January 2017
(billions of current dollars)**



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

NOTES: Import and export numbers might not add to totals due to rounding.

Table 4. Value of Monthly U.S.-Mexico Freight Flows by Mode of Transportation
(millions of current dollars)

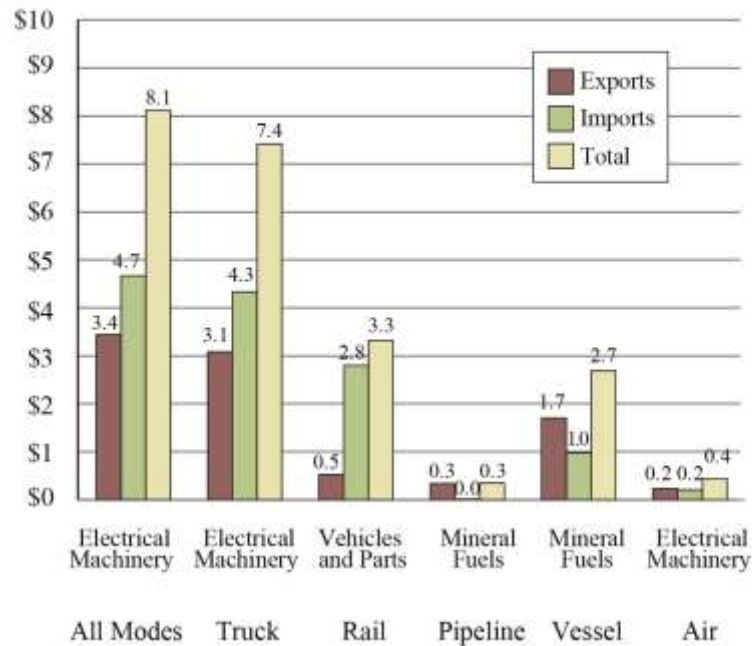
Mode		January 2016	January 2017	Percent Change January 2016-2017
All Modes	Imports	22,401	23,482	4.8
	Exports	18,066	19,534	8.1
	Total	40,467	43,015	6.3
All Surface Modes	Imports	20,260	20,289	0.1
	Exports	15,243	15,513	1.8
	Total	35,503	35,801	0.8
Truck	Imports	16,678	16,440	-1.4
	Exports	12,712	13,053	2.7
	Total	29,390	29,492	0.3
Rail	Imports	3,561	3,838	7.8
	Exports	2,276	2,123	-6.7
	Total	5,837	5,961	2.1
Pipeline	Imports	21	11	-48.7
	Exports	255	337	32.5
	Total	275	348	26.4
Vessel	Imports	1,208	1,870	54.8
	Exports	1,533	2,485	62.1
	Total	2,741	4,355	58.9
Air	Imports	481	540	12.4
	Exports	697	739	6.0
	Total	1,178	1,280	8.6

SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

NOTES: Numbers might not add to totals due to rounding. Percent changes based on numbers prior to rounding.

The value of trade for all modes is not equal to the sum of truck, rail, pipeline, vessel and air modes, it also includes shipments made by mail, foreign trade zones, and other transportation. For additional detail, please refer to the "Data Fields" section of [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

Figure 6. Top Commodity Transported between the U.S. and Mexico for Each Mode of Transportation, January 2017 (billions of current dollars)



SOURCE: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, [TransBorder Freight Data](#)

NOTES: Import and export numbers might not add to totals due to rounding.